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Missourian SportsWeek

Scottish victory
Sandy Lyle wins the British Open. See Pages 4B-5B.



Columbia Missourian

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Viola Jones, who is 100 years old today, sits in her room at Boone Retirement Center.

Grandmothers' grandma is 100

A button on her dress reads 'Love is Ageless'

By Sherri Fickel
Missourian staff writer

When other peoples' grandmothers call you grandmother, you know you have lived a long time.

Viola Spry Jones celebrates her 100th birthday today. "She's grandma to everybody," Julie Woodyard, activities director at Boone Retirement Center, says. That includes the other residents, five of whom are 100 or over.

Jones has lived at Boone Retirement Center for five years. She was born in Salt Creek, Mo., a small town in Howard County. Her first husband, Edward Street, died in a mining accident in 1915. She moved to Columbia in 1922 with her second husband, Everett Jones. He died in 1942. She never had any children of her own, but raised three stepchildren. Sandra Turner, her stepgranddaughter, says the lack of blood relation is not important.

"She thinks she's got to be going somewhere, doing something, all the time," Turner said.

Ribbons and awards for bingo and bowling decorate Jones' room. The residents bowl in the cafeteria. She also has a first place award for a wheelchair race, although she only uses a wheelchair to get to and from the cafeteria. "She comes to every single thing we do," Woodyard said.

Jones says her age is "kind of against" some of the things she wants to do, but adds, "I don't care what they have, I'll do it."

Jones also enjoys watching television and her daily telephone conversations with friends and relatives. She participates in the grandsharing program through the University Y in which a University student visits an elderly member of the community.

She has done "just about everything" in her lifetime, Jones says. She made about 400 quilts before her eyesight became too poor to quilt anymore. Her poor eyesight seems to be the only thing that makes her sad. She says, "If I could just see a little more."

Pinned to Jones' dress is a button that reads "Love is Ageless." She is also wearing a necklace and earrings, and has several rings on her manicured hands. "I've always been a little proud of myself. If you aren't, who will be?" she says.

"If you ever find I did anything I shouldn't have done, you tell me. I'm not ashamed of anything I've done," Jones adds.

A family reunion was held Saturday in her honor and Sunday there was an open house. What does she want for her birthday? "Just somebody to come and see me," she says.

"I didn't think I'd ever make it (to 100)," Jones says, adding that there is "no secret" to long life.

Dating has changed the most in the time she has seen, Jones says. "We didn't know what a car was," she says. She dated on a springboard wagon, horseback or walked to parties in the neighborhood.

She says her mother told her once, "If I see you kissing them and loving them, you're not going with them anymore." Once a man kissed her on the cheek and she told him, "Now, you didn't do me right." No contact was allowed before the wedding and Jones says that was fine with her.

Jones says she likes living at the center. "I like every one of the nurses and the old folk," she says. "If I can please you, I'm going to do it."

Jones sums up her philosophy of life with, "I don't let anything make me sad, I'm going to always be happy. That's the way I want to be."

Police kill 3 in S. Africa

More than 100 arrested in 'state of emergency'

JOHANNESBURG South Africa (UPI) — South African police killed three black men Sunday and arrested more than 100 other blacks as a state of emergency took effect in large sections of the white-ruled country.

In another development, South African police commissioner Gen. Johan Coetzee said news about police activities in the emergency zones would be controlled, but he added that law-abiding citizens had nothing to fear.

The three men were killed and five others were injured when officers fired into a crowd in the black township of Tumahole, 60 miles south of Johannesburg, authorities said. The shootings came shortly after midnight as crowds of up to 400 blacks stoned police vehicles and tried to set fire to the homes of black policemen and government officials, authorities said.

"Police headquarters received a report that three black males died and five black males were injured in the above incidents," the report said.

The township is not in an area covered by the state of emergency.

President Pieter Botha declared the state of emergency — the first in 25 years — in 36 districts around Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth to combat racial violence that has killed 480 people in the past 10 months.

Police said minor incidents were reported in some of the areas. At Witbank, about 50 miles northeast of Johannesburg, police fired tear gas into a crowd of stone-throwing black youths. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Police earlier Sunday said 113 people were arrested in the first hours of the emergency as officers set up roadblocks and conducted random searches, but there were no subsequent updates from authorities.

Coetzee told state-run television that police will control, but not inhibit reporting on the emergency.

Every word reported about what is happening in these areas will have to be done after it has been properly evaluated and properly controlled to ascertain the truth and factual correctness," he said.

Black leaders, including Nobel laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, denounced the state of emergency and the leader of the white opposition party Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, called for an emergency session of Parliament.

Slabbert, who is an opponent of apartheid, said Parliament should

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Still more questions on Linzie shooting

By Steven Bennis
Missourian staff writer

Nearly three weeks since the shooting death of 19-year-old Kimberly Linzie by Columbia Police, questions remain about the actions of officers in the incident. Maj. Carl Annum, who is heading the internal police investigation, said that Friday he had submitted his report to Chief William Dye, who is expected to discuss the report at a press conference early this week.

In interviews with police and witnesses to the shooting, the Missourian has attempted to reconstruct the sequence of events that led police to open fire on Linzie. Police say they shot Linzie when she attempted to crush Officer Pat Mills into her patrol car and run her down.

Linzie was shot to death at close range by Officer Dean France as Mills waved on a civilian car that was blocking Linzie's car, police said Thursday. Police have said France stood on Linzie's left and fired two shots through the left rear window.

Police said in a news conference after the shooting that officers at the scene shot Linzie because they lost sight of Mills and thought she was about to be run over after being pinned.

Dye and Annum said the results of the investigation will determine how Mills could have been seen waving the civilian car away amid gunfire if

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City government veteran says time ripe for job

By David Hertz
Missourian staff writer

When Columbia Public Works Director and acting City Manager Ray Beck first began working for the Public Works Department, he tried to revamp the city's outdated street-construction practices.

Now, 25 years and more than 50 miles of improved roads later, Beck wants to leave street construction to become city manager.

The City Council is considering Beck for the city manager position, a post he has applied for twice and declined to accept once. Beck is serving his fourth stint as acting city manager.

The council and Beck will meet in a closed session Monday night, where they are expected to discuss terms for an agreement that will make Beck city manager.

"If we can work out a way to assure Mr. Beck that he will not lose his retirement and find a way to protect those funds, then I think Columbia has found a good city manager," said Fourth Ward Councilman Pat Barnes.

Several present and former city officials echoed Barnes' support for Beck, a man who has spent 24 of his 25 years in city government as director of Public Works.

A man known for his cautious approach to city government, Beck, 62, is expected to

bring experience and stability to a position that traditionally has been filled by a person new to Columbia. The previous four city managers were recruited from across the country.

The different approach to filling Columbia's top administrative position may be a good idea, former City Manager Don Allard said.

"I think there's a real advantage to keeping people who come up through the organization, because they're familiar with the community," said Allard, who was Columbia's city manager from 1962 to 1973. Allard lives in the Denver suburb of Arvada, where he recently retired as city manager.

The local approach does not bother former Columbia Mayor Bob Pugh, who said Beck is "probably the best qualified person we've had to ever consider."

Pat Scott, former city clerk, said, "He probably brings history, the experience of growing up with the city of Columbia."

Beck laid the groundwork for Columbia's planned urban development districts, chaired the committee that planned the downtown improvements and implemented the waste-water improvement program.

"I laid out the first bus routes right on my desk," he said.

When asked to list some of Beck's accomplishments, Fifth Ward Councilwoman

Barbara McDonald said, "Look at Columbia."

Other projects bearing Beck's stamp include the city's street-improvement program, the building of Columbia Regional Airport, the garbage collection program and improvement of the city's sewer system.

Said Beck, "I've tried to be progressive in programs. I think we've had one of the more progressive street programs in the area."

Beck's involvement in many public service projects has given him an in-depth appreciation for the city's workings, said First Ward Councilman Al Tacker. "I think that he's extremely knowledgeable about the city of Columbia, about the nuts and bolts," he said.

But the extensive exposure also has made Beck some enemies.

McDonald has talked to citizens who are concerned Beck's enemies will hamper his effectiveness. "There are people who called and said you couldn't have picked a man with more enemies," she said.

Former Sixth Ward Councilman Lew Stoerker said, "You can put the name Ray Beck in front of any Columbian, and they'll have a very strong opinion, one way or another."

Stoerker criticizes Beck for being inflexible. "If things don't go the way he wants them to go, he stalls and nothing happens

until he gets what he wants," he said.

Beck acknowledged he is not favorably looked upon by all Columbians, but he said some disfavor comes with his position. "There's been quite a few controversial issues I've worked on over the years," he said. "I usually tell people, 'If you give the right of way, here is how it's going to adversely affect you.' It provides negative thinking, of course, but I'm not sure whether that's a fault or not."

"I try to do what I think is best for the community after doing quite a bit of studies on my own," he said. "I try to review most ideas or programs from the other person's point of view."

The International City Management Association, a professional organization for city managers, offers few specifics on qualifications a new city manager should possess.

Wylie Williams, director of member services, said the type of city manager a community should hire varies. "It really boils down to what the community is looking for," he said. "Management skills are a must, especially getting that job done, whatever that job might be."

Former City Manager Dick Gray was more specific. "The city manager needs some knowledge of all aspects of city government," he said. "A city manager in a city of this size has to be a generalist who

has some knowledge of a lot of areas... but practices a team management approach."

The ability to get things done is another aspect Gray said a city manager needs. "The art of managing is being able to coordinate and manage an organization in a political atmosphere."

Beck, during his short terms as acting city manager, has accomplished a great deal, Barnes said. "Over the years when Mr. Beck has been acting city manager, I have seen more things getting done at city hall," he said.

Such ability generates a respect within the community that the city manager needs to be effective, say city officials and others familiar with local government.

"All the time the council and the community have been talking about Mr. Beck as city manager, I did not receive a single call that was against him," Barnes said.

Credibility, sincerity and honesty also are important considerations, Scott said. "He does bring back the credibility to city government that was lost recently," Scott said, referring to the resignations of Gray and former Mayor John Westlund.

"He has the complete respect and cooperation of every city department head, she said. "He has a lot of credibility with the

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